

**IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

IN THE MATTER OF

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO
COVID-19 OUTBREAK

NO. 20-05

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Washington has declared a state of emergency in all counties of Washington due to the public health emergency caused by the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of Skagit County have also declared a state of emergency in Skagit County due to the same public health concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court has adopted various administrative orders closing all courts statewide except for certain specific emergency hearings and has authorized individual courts to take further actions concerning court operations, as warranted, to address the current state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, The Governor of the State of Washington has ordered the temporary closure of certain government and business facilities and has further prohibited gatherings and ordered social distancing and

WHEREAS, The Governor of the State of Washington has set forth a plan for gradual reopening of various government and business facilities, and

WHEREAS, The Presiding Judge has determined that all reasonably necessary steps to reduce Court population and protect the health and welfare of court participants must be taken;

NOW THEREFORE, Consistent with orders to all courts from the Washington State Supreme Court and in keeping with the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Healthy order combined with a statewide plan for gradual reopening of government and business facilities, and, so long as the following orders remain consistent with Washington State Supreme Court Administrative Orders, the following schedule will be observed until further notice by the Sedro-Woolley Municipal Court:

1. All jail arraignment calendars will continue to be held via video court by Skagit County District Court personnel as has been done during the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order. Defense counsel will appear in the District Court courtroom rather than the video studio at the jail, and all parties will observe social distancing guidelines.
2. Video hearings for traffic infractions for defendants represented by attorneys shall begin after June 4, 2020.
3. The court shall continue to review warrant quash requests through written ex parte requests only.
4. The court shall continue to sign agreed continuances on all criminal matters through ex parte motions only with appropriate speedy trial waivers. In cases where the defendant declines to agree to a waiver of speedy trial or an exclusion of the time between one hearing and the next, a virtual or in court motion for continuance will be heard on a date set by the clerk, depending on the phase of reopening. An appropriate waiver for agreed continuances is either (1) 90 days beyond the next court date or (2) exclusion of the time between the two court dates AND shall include the signature of the defendant on the agreed order indicating approval or a statement from defense counsel that approval was obtained telephonically.
5. Video hearings for the resolution of criminal cases, to hear contested motions for continuance, or to hear other motions will begin June 4, 2020. Please contact check the Sedro-Woolley Municipal Court Clerk at (360) 855-0366 or by email at courtclerk@ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us for information to schedule and access these hearings.
6. In custody hearings will be available via video court at 9:30 am on Tuesday (combined with other Municipal Courts calendar) at the Skagit County District Court. Please contact check the Sedro-Woolley Municipal Court Clerk at (360) 855-0366 or by email at courtclerk@ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us for information to schedule and access these hearings.
7. Motions to rescind no contact orders will continue to be filed electronically and reviewed ex parte.
8. Agreed orders on restitution will be signed ex parte. Contested restitution hearings will be conducted via video hearing upon motion of either party at a date and time set by the clerk.

9. The court will schedule in-person motion hearings on a case by case basis where such scheduling is warranted due to a critical need for a decision in certain criminal cases. In addition, hearings for a final resolution on certain domestic violence charges requiring finger printing and DNA collection shall be held in-person. To schedule an in-person hearing, the defense or prosecuting attorney shall file a motion setting forth the emergent reasons for an in-person hearing, and a judge will review the request to determine whether or not to schedule the in-person hearing. If the motion for a hearing is granted, the matter shall be set as expeditiously as possible. All social distancing rules shall be followed by all participants. Masks shall be worn by all parties when entering the City Hall building, the courtrooms, and the clerk's office.
10. All court business shall continue to be conducted via phone, email, fax, and drop offs at the box located at the entrance of City Hall, until such time as the City Hall and the Court can have daily cleaning and disinfecting services in place.
11. Jury trials will not resume prior to July 6, 2020.
12. This order shall go into effect at 7:30 am May 14, 2020.

Dated this 13th day of May, 2020

Brock D. Stiles, Presiding Judge